

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 13, 2023

All Are Welcome

hricatholic.org



*During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them
walking on the sea."*

(Mt 14:25)



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

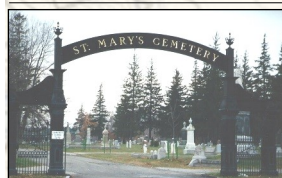
Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

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

hrrsvdp300@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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Immaculate Conception School

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Maintenance

Bud Kent, IC Building Maintenance

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bkent@hriccatholic.org

Eddie Martinez, IC Facilities Manager

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Music Ministry

Jennifer Acorn, HR Organist

978-697-1082

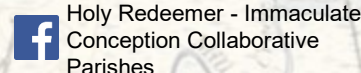
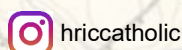
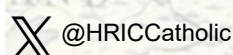
Kathy Peavey, HR Vocalist

978-360-8756

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

Tim Richard, IC organist

Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator
978-270-4924



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (8/12)

4:00pm **IC** (Fr. O'Brien & Deacon Dow)

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

Sunday (8/13)

8:30am **Nativity** *Kardas & Johnson Families*
(Fr. Stanley)

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

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

11:00am **IC** *Alexander Hasapis, Nick & Helen Ebacher*
(Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)

Monday (8/14)

9:00am **IC** *Rosemary Harrington* (Fr. Richard)

7:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Stanley) *Assumption Vigil Mass*

Tuesday (8/15) *Feast of the Assumption*

9:00am **IC** *Josephine Caliento, Joanne Grella*
(Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)

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

7:00pm **IC** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)

Wednesday (8/16)

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

Thursday (8/17)

9:00am **IC** *Rozalia Benca, For the intentions of Adolf Benca* (Fr. Morin)

Friday (8/18)

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

Saturday (8/19)

4:00pm **IC** *Donald Hartman* (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

Sunday (8/20)

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

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

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

11:00am **IC** *Wadad Azzi, Linda O'Keefe*
(Fr. Richard & Deacon Moranski)

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: hricatholic.org and on Facebook: (Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes).

Confessions



We offer confessions Saturdays from **3:00–3:30 p.m.** at IC Church. No appointment needed. Confessions are also available at other times and places during the week by appointment only. For more information or to schedule a time for confession, contact our Collaborative offices at (978) 346-8604 or (978) 462-2724.

Bulletin Information

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

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,



Many years ago, in a Catholic School 2nd Grade Classroom, I shared this weekend's Gospel story about Jesus walking on the water. After putting my Bible down and staring intently into their wondering eyes, I boldly told the students that I could walk on water. Of course, my proclamation was met with a chorus of, "No way!" and "Not gonna happen!" The faith of my young soon-to-be First Communicants was breathtaking. So, I said to them, "I will prove it." "Watch!" I commanded them. They stared. I then proceeded to pull an ice cube tray out of my backpack, dumped the contents all over the floor and began to walk on water...in one of its three natural forms. Frozen, in this case. Of course the youngsters were unimpressed. "You cheated!" one called out. "No fair!" another shouted. I calmly explained to them that I never specified what state the water had to be in, so what I said was true. They were still not giving me any credit. Their teacher was just shaking her head. I guess my pseudo-science/Scripture lesson needed some tweaking. But deep inside, I was hoping that they would remember this Gospel story, even if my own reenactment of it fell short.

Walking on the water. What an iconic and spectacular miracle! Years ago, I tried water-skiing. On a perfectly calm day, with the lake nice and still, one could almost imagine gliding along the pristine surface as if it were solid enough to support my weight. For those few precious seconds once I rose up out of the deep and onto my skis...it almost seemed possible! Then, of course, I got distracted by something—a fish, a bird, a bug...I don't know what. And then I lost my balance and careened head-first into the drink, pummeling into the once smooth surface that was now a turbulent wash of froth and algae. On certain days, I still swear that I can feel some of that water coursing through my inner ear....so much for that attempt to defy gravity and physics!

And yet, there are few Gospel texts that mesmerize us more than this ghostly encounter with a supernatural Jesus striding on the deep towards his floundering disciples in the boat. A number of years ago while on a pilgrimage trip to the Holy Land, I witnessed just how quickly a squall can occur on what might seem like an otherwise calm day. The Sea of Galilee is really a very large lake with high hills on all sides. The way the air currents move across this area lend themselves to unpredictable weather and sudden storms. I was watching a small fishing boat that was out near the middle of the lake get overtaken by a sudden gust of wind that churned up the waves and must have certainly caused some panic among the hapless fishermen aboard. Maybe this is what happened to the disciples in today's passage.

That Peter would have the courage to even suggest that Jesus, if it really was Him and not an apparition, call to him to come out and join Him walking on the water, seems so crazy. In the midst of the storm, why would anyone want to get out of the boat even if it were taking on water? Start bailing faster, maybe. But take a stroll on the sea, yikes!

(Continued on page 4)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, August 14

RCIA Team Formation Mtg. 9:45am, IC Nazareth Library

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

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

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

Tuesday, August 15

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

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

Wednesday, August 16

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library

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

Thursday, August 17

Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Friday, August 18

Adoration 9:30am, IC Church

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

Saturday, August 19

Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

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

Collaborative Faith Formation

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

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

New: Online Payment Option

Online payment via our online giving site is now available in addition to the traditional payment-by-check option. Visit our website for more details and how to take advantage of online Faith Formation payments: www.hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation.

Baptism

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

Adoration: Radiation Therapy

When Moses descended from, Mt Sinai, his face shone with radiance after he dialogued with the Living God! When you exit from Adoration, shine that very radiance too! Listening in sacred silence to the Living God will transform your spirit...and your face! to savor rest with Him in Adoration's holy hour. Join us for Adoration.

Place: IC Church

Enter through the Green Street door only.

Times: Thurs. 7–8 p.m.

and

Fri. 9:30–12 noon

Note: If a Friday funeral is scheduled, or in the absence of a presider, IC Church will remain open for "Sacred Silence" only. Check the HRIC calendar online for updated information.



(Continued from page 3)

But as the Gospel tells us, Peter did actually start walking on the water that fateful day. It may have only lasted for a moment...but he made it at least a few steps before the whole thing overwhelmed him. You know, I've often wondered what exactly caused him to sink? Was it really his fear? He seemingly overcame his fear of seeing a "ghost" and challenged Jesus to call him to come to be with Him. That doesn't sound like fear at all. Rather it seems like the greatest of courage and a statement of faith—"Lord if it is you (and I think it is!) call to me to join you on the water!" Real, gripping fear, I think would have had Peter clinging to the gunwale afraid to breathe never mind speak. I think, rather, that Peter got distracted. He was laser-focused on Jesus when he got out of the boat. Laser-focused on Jesus as he began to walk on the water towards his Master. Laser-focused...until, whoops! That was an awful big wave! There was a really strong gust of wind! This water is so very deep! Taking his eyes off of Jesus, even for just a split second, and a-swimming he went! Drowning, really. Despite being an accomplished fisherman and no doubt a good swimmer, Peter began to sink in the violent waves and storm until Jesus rescued him and brought all of the disciples to safety.

It is a very linear lesson of keeping ourselves intently focused on the Lord, no matter what "storms" seem to swirl around us. With our eyes and hearts firmly on the Lord, all things are possible, all calamities survivable, all disasters navigable. Jesus is Lord of Heaven and Earth. There is nothing that is not within His power or control, no situation too strong for Him to command and calm. Jesus is the Word of God, enfleshed in our human history for the precise reason to save us. What He calls us to, constantly and lovingly, is faith. In the Gospel passage, He chastises Peter for a lack of faith and for doubting. Jesus once encountered the father of a boy who had been possessed with a demon, and after challenging him on his lack of faith, the man responded, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mk 9:24)

Amidst raging storms, pesky demons or scoffing second graders, maybe that's what our prayer before the Lord needs to be day in day out. Because we do have faith! A little, at least, or we would not have bothered following the Lord this far or stopping to pray today. But it is far too easy in this world to get distracted and lose our focus, to get caught up in whatever might be the latest skirmish or next passing moment of turbulence. We need to pray for more faith, for a stronger faith, for a faith that can weather the changing times and seasons of our lives. Our faith needs to be resilient enough to confront evil where it lies, and to overcome lies with the truth of who Christ is. In God, there is no doubt, only love.

So, these days if you see me coming towards you with an ice-cube tray, I am much more likely to be thinking of a tall glass of iced-tea rather than a rematch with some second graders. But no matter what form we encounter water, let us remember the faith that was gifted to us in the waters of Baptism, a faith that we are called to grow and share with the world, that others might come to share in the grace of God poured out for us Christ Jesus. There, is life!

Summer blessings,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Questions of the Week



Adult: When do you find it most difficult to trust in God?

Child: What is the good news in today's Gospel?

Prayers for the Sick

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

Patricia Baikewicz	Jeanine Ebacher	Donika Pulake
Carole Bradley	Fowler	Douglas Rose
Priscilla Brown	Charmaine Haan	Robert Rose
Vasfije Buhali	Hillar Haan	Maureen Russell
Autumn Rose	Jay Hanslig	Rob Schweizer
Coulombe	Terence Healey	Frank Siderio
Bill Crounse	Linda Hofferty	Yvonne Sloban
Drew Daubach	Sam Kitchen	Gary Smith
Kristen	Arthur LaPointe	Arlene Stoddard
D'Entremont	Carol O'Neal	Tom Tribble
Ann-Margaret	Rev. Mario Orrigo	Michael Tucker
Ferrante	Eleanora Paciulan	Maddie Villers
Jack Flynn	Joseph Palumbo	Laurent Vincent
	Lee Preble	

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

Vermont Flood Disaster Relief

Recently, our neighbors in Vermont have suffered historic levels of flooding. For those wishing to contribute to the recovery efforts, contributions can be made through the following channels:

<https://www.vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/catholic-charities/ways-to-give/donate-online/>

or

<https://form-renderer-app.donorperfect.io/give/green-mountain-united-way/2023-vermont-flood-disaster-relief-fund>

Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need!

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille: a Lifeline for Helping Marriages since 1977

Wherever you are in your journey, our marriage help program can improve communication, increase connection and intimacy in your marriage. Thousands of couples have successfully transformed their marriages by attending our program. It all starts by attending a weekend! Visit HelpOurMarriage.org or scan the QR code to learn more.

Upcoming weekends: August 18–20, November 10–12.



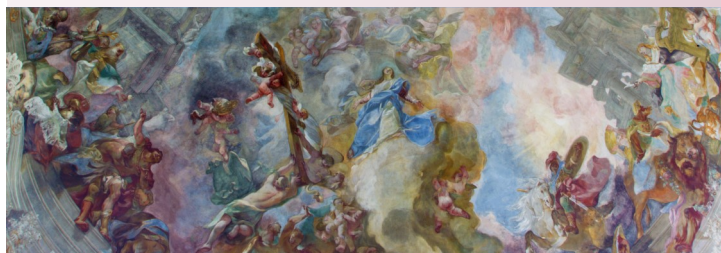
Recitation of the Rosary



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/

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A Holy Day of Obligation



Tuesday, August 15 is the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mass times for the feast day are:

Monday, August 14, 7:00 p.m., St. Ann, W. Newbury

Tuesday, August 15, 9:00 a.m., IC, Newburyport
9:00 a.m., Nativity, Merrimac
7:00 p.m., IC, Newburyport

Knights of Columbus

All men of the Collaborative, 18 years or older, are welcome to join the Knights.

We are on summer break from our meetings until September, but we will meet again beginning on September 12.

We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the IC Nazareth Library. Also, all are welcome to join us on the first Sunday of every month after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the IC Parish Center for coffee and donuts.

For more information about our meetings or to join the Knights, call 978-225-0804 or email kofc231@outlook.com or scan the QR code.

Empowering men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in their communities.



Knights of Columbus
Massachusetts
State Council

For more information visit:
kofc.org/join



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

AED Kits for the Collaborative

Earlier this year, we installed 8 AED (Automated External Defibrillator) kits in our worship spaces and parish halls. To date, we have received many donations that have covered the cost of **all but 2** of the AEDs that were purchased.

We continue to accept donations to cover the cost of the remaining 2 AEDs. The total cost per AED installed is \$2,192. Please contact Dennis LaMalfa for more information: 978-462-2724 x451, dlamalfa@hriccatholic.org

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Aug. 5–6	\$4,032.00
IC Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Aug. 4	\$1,515.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,262.59
Total Weekly Offertory	\$8,809.59
IC Haiti, Aug 5–6	\$7,678.00
Grand Annual Goal: \$100,000	\$82,430
Catholic Appeal Goal: \$54,952	\$53,138

The second collection this weekend (Aug. 13) is the Monthly. The second collection next weekend (Aug. 20) is Ongoing Church Maintenance. Unless otherwise indicated, make out checks to Immaculate Conception Parish with the second collection noted in the memo.

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

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

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 Dining-in Now Available

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!

Like Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes

IC Online Giving

Immaculate Conception Parish offers Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or a recurring (weekly) donation.

Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of Immaculate Conception Parish community. Parish registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office.

Once you register with the parish, or if you are already a registered parishioner, visit our website, hricatholic.org and click the “Links” tab, then click on “IC Parish Online Giving” to get to the site. There are four different funds you can choose to contribute to.

If you manage your other bills online, why not give to your Church online? It is safe and secure and you get to decide exactly when and to where your gift will be made.

Questions? Contact Christine Breslow at 978-462-2724 x 402.

Immaculate Conception School

October 2, 2023

IC 5TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

RENAISSANCE GOLF CLUB
377 KENOZA STREET, HAVERHILL, MA

Don't Golf?
Join us for a BBQ dinner!
All families are invited to join us for a fun evening with the purchase of a Dinner-Only-Ticket



All proceeds will benefit the
Immaculate Conception School Newburyport, MA

St. Mary's Cemetery

Immaculate Conception Parish owns and operates a private cemetery located on Storey Avenue. St. Mary's Cemetery is a 35-acre cemetery with consecrated grounds that provides tranquility and peacefulness at those difficult times that we all are faced with. Please visit the parish cemetery and you will find the cemetery to be well-managed and maintained. Cemetery plots are available for full-body and cremated remains burials in any denomination. Call Joseph Viel, Superintendent, at 978-208-0266 to schedule an appointment.

175th Anniversary Prayer

Immaculate Conception Church

1848-2023

Gracious and loving Father, on this 175th anniversary of our Parish, we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present.

We praise You for all the joy we have shared in these years of faith and fellowship. We pray for all who together make up this community of Your people.

Through the guidance and intercession of our Patroness, may we be ever mindful of the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the strength of the Holy Spirit who renews all things.

May our Parish continue to grow as a home for all who seek Your love and mercy. Mary, Queen of Peace, conceived without original sin, pray for us. Amen

IC 175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

IC Parish: 175th Anniversary

Immaculate Conception Parish celebrates 175 years

In celebration of this milestone of faith and service to the greater Newburyport community, the parish is planning a series of events throughout the year.

A committee has formed to create, plan, and execute these yearlong events, focused on celebrating the history of our parish and our patroness. If you would like to be part of the planning, join our next meeting at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 16** at IC St. Louis Hall. All are welcome.

175th Anniversary Harvest Fair

We are planning to hold a Harvest Fair on Saturday, October 21. The fair will include a bake sale, artisan/craft tables, a wine rack, Grandma's Attic table, raffles and door prizes, all-holiday table, 175th anniversary commemorative items, and much more.

Harvest Fair Items Needed

All-Holiday Items Raffle Prizes Grandma's Attic Items

How Can You Help? Do you have any "once loved" holiday items from **any holiday** that you no longer use or display at home that could be donated to our **All-Holiday Table** especially Halloween, Thanksgiving, or Christmas?



Do you have a "gently used" item for the **Grandma's Attic Table**?

Perhaps you could donate a gift card to a local restaurant, tickets to a sporting or musical event, or a weekend at a summer cottage or ski resort for our **Raffle Prizes**?

Please help support our Parish's 175th Anniversary Harvest Fair by setting aside your treasures now! Drop off dates will be announced in a future bulletin.

HRIC Represented in the Yankee Homecoming Parade!

On a spectacularly beautiful day, 45 marchers, in royal blue anniversary tee shirts, accompanied Father Tim and the Immaculate Conception 175th anniversary float in the Yankee Homecoming parade. Our entry was led by bagpiper **Tom Welch** and the float was complete with banners, a mural of the church and continuously peeling church bells. HRIC ministries were joyfully and creatively represented with a variety of posters promoting the good work done in the communities served by our Collaborative.

A special thank you goes to **David Watson** for the use of his truck and to **Lou Venezia** for his trailer and his extraordinary carpentry skills. And, a big shout out to Parade Committee members **Jonathan Temple, Ann Messina, Mary Bragg, Kate Prescott, Bonnie Durante, and Suellen Welch** for developing this beautiful entry for our 175th anniversary!

More photos online: hricatholic.org/photos.



HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Aug. 5-6	\$1,468.00
HR Mailed-In Offertory, Week Ending Aug. 4	\$ 150.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	<u>\$ 311.25</u>
Total Weekly Offertory	\$1,929.25

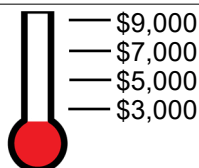
IC Haiti, Aug 5-6	\$1,468.00
Grand Annual Goal: \$25,000	\$19,755

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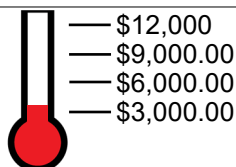
If you would like to mail in your collections, send them to **Holy Redeemer Parish, 4 Green Street, Merrimac, MA 01860.**

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

St. Ann Church Painting Project
Goal **\$9,000.00**
To Date **\$668.00**



Nativity Hall Air Conditioning
Goal **\$12,000.00**
To Date **\$3,425.00**



Holy Redeemer Projects

Painting the Interior of St. Ann Church

We are raising funds to give the interior of St. Ann Church a new coat of paint. This spring, a group of parishioners formed a small committee to pick out new colors. We need approximately \$9,000 to complete the project. Special envelopes have been included in the monthly packets for those who receive them, or blank ones are available at the back of the church. Please watch the bulletin to track our progress. Once the money has been raised, we will schedule the painting to be done. Many thanks for your support and generosity in helping to complete this work!

Air Conditioning for Nativity Hall

We are beginning to raise funds necessary to add air conditioning to Nativity Hall. Like the church, we intend to install the heat pump "splits" that have enabled us to enjoy a more comfortable environment for worship this summer. Taking advantage of current rebates available, we hope to see this work done for about \$12,000. In addition to helping with a number of parish meetings that have resumed, this project will also be helpful with the occasional meal following funerals and other events. Special envelopes for this have been included in the monthly packets for those who receive them and blank envelopes are available in the church as well. Once we have raised these funds, we will proceed with the project. Many thanks for your generosity and support!

Activities Committee Updates

Next Meetings: September 6 & 27

The Activities Committee will be meeting Wednesday, September 6, at 6:30 p.m. in the Merrimac hall. We will be gathering to place the final preparations for our ham and bean supper on Saturday, September 23. Please join us.

We will also meet on Wednesday, September 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the Merrimac hall to get our Holiday Fair underway. The fair is Saturday, November 18. Many, many hands are needed and we welcome your help!

Coffee and Conversation, September 17

Please join us after the 8:30 Mass on September 17 for coffee and conversation. We would all love to hear what you did on your summer vacation!

Ham & Bean Dinner, September 23

We are in the planning stages of a **ham and bean dinner** followed by BINGO on Saturday, September 23 after the 4:00 Mass at Nativity. We will be serving sliced ham, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls, and homemade apple crisp for \$10 per person, 12 and younger: \$5. After dinner, BINGO cards will be available for \$1 each for cash prizes.

Holiday Fair, November 18

Join us in planning this wonderful event.

Bake sale table: planning ahead! Our bake table could use some homemade zucchini breads. We understand they freeze well. Bake now to avoid the rush!

Lawn signs: Anyone who has an advertising lawn sign from last year, please return to the back of either church so we can change the date and get it cleaned up and ready to use for this year's fair.

HR St. Vincent de Paul



Two new members have joined our conference in the last few weeks. They said, "yes!" to the call: to gain a spiritually sense of fulfillment while helping those in our community that are less fortunate. We are blessed to be surrounded and supported by our generous Parish community. Thank you all.

In the Bible, we read that Jesus was able to feed "the five thousand" with 5 loaves of bread and 2 dried fishes. In a similar way, the St. Vincent de Paul Society relies on the faith and generosity of the community to "feed" those in need. Your continued donations of money and gift cards are greatly appreciated.



Please continue to give generously using our poor boxes and the envelopes provided in the pews of both churches or mail donations to 4 Green St. Merrimac, MA 01860. Your donations are very much appreciated.

If you know of someone who needs assistance, please have them call our hotline at 978-346-8604 X4.

HR NEWS

Communion to the Homebound

We would like to offer our Holy Redeemer 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.

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



The Prayer Shawl Ministry banner in the Yankee Homecoming parade



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Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes

HR Online Giving

HR provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or a recurring donation. To get started you need to be a registered member of Holy Redeemer Parish. Registration forms are available on the website or contact the parish office. Once you register, or if you are already a registered parishioner, visit our website, hricatholic.org and click the "Links" tab, then "HR Parish Online Giving" to get to the site. There are three different funds you can contribute to: Offertory, Monthly, and Grand Annual.

Questions? Contact Christine Breslow at 978-462-2724 x 402.

Collaborative Calendar



Did you know we have an online Collaborative calendar? It lists Mass times and all Collaborative events and activities. Access it through the calendar tab on our website: hricatholic.org or you can scan the QR code.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Pilgrimage Opportunities

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: April 8–16, 2024

Join Christine and Paul Blanchette, IC parishioners, on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, with optional post tour to Dubrovnik.

\$2,599 (double occupancy) from Boston (add \$649/person for Dubrovnik)

Inclusions:

- Round-trip airfare
- 7 nights accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Transfers, transportation
- Wireless headsets
- Assistance from professional local Catholic guide(s)
- Visit to Community Cenacolo
- Sightseeing and admissions fees
- Mass daily & Spiritual activities
- Luggage handling (1 piece per person)

Visit www.206tours.com/blanchette/medjugorje/, scan the QR code, or contact us: Alexandra@206tours.com or cat@206tours.com



Pilgrimage to Fatima and Flavors of Portugal Duoro River Cruise: October 25–November 7, 2024

Join Fr. Tim on a pilgrimage to Fatima and Flavors of Portugal Duoro River Cruise

\$8,174 (double occupancy) from Boston in Cabin D (Cabin upgrades available at an extra cost)

Inclusions:

- Round-trip airfare from Boston (BOS)
- Airport taxes and Surcharges
- 11 nights accommodation (combination ship and hotels)
- Transfers
- Breakfast and dinner daily, lunches when on cruise
- Transportation
- Tour escort
- Assistance from professional local Catholic guide(s)
- Sightseeing and admissions fees
- Mass daily & Spiritual activities
- Whispers headsets
- Luggage handling (1 piece per person)

Visit www.206tours.com/blanchette/fatima/, scan the QR code, or contact us: alexandra@206tours.com or cat@206tours.com



A Word of Thanks from the Food Pantry

Thank you so much for your **ongoing** generous donations of food and personal care items! Your continuing contributions are helping many families in need. We monitor the bins and distribute the much needed items to the food pantries serving the local communities within our collaborative.



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